

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~Support~~ A support comprising two essentially parallel first and second surfaces, wherein at least one area on said first surface comprises surface structures that form evanescent-fields on the first surface of the support for the detection of optically-active substances within an the evanescent-field fields formed on the first surface of the support, in which in at least one area a plane of wherein the surface structures on said surface is comprise inclined surfaces that are inclined with respect to the a plane of the support by an angle  $\alpha_{\text{wedge}}$  within a range from 10° to 85°.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~Support~~ The support according to claim 1, comprising at least 10, preferably wherein the at least one area comprises at least 100 areas.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~Support~~ The support according to claim 1, wherein a region of said first surface, ~~at which the detection of the~~ where optically-active substances take place ~~are detected~~ is covered by a top plate.

4. (Currently Amended) Support according to claim 1, wherein  $\alpha_{\text{wedge}}$  ~~the angle of the inclined surfaces is between 15° and 75°, preferably between 25° and 65°.~~

5. (Currently Amended) ~~Support~~ The support according to claim 1, wherein the refractive index of material forming the support ~~( $n_{\text{support}}$ ) is larger than 1.0 and smaller than 2.0, preferably is between about 1.4 and 1.8.~~

6. (Currently Amended) ~~Support~~ The support according to claim 1, wherein ~~within the area on said surface a second plane of the surface adjacent to the first inclined plane is inclined in such that the surface structures comprise a symmetrical pyramidal structure is formed.~~

7. (Currently Amended) ~~Support~~ The support according to claim 1, wherein at least one capture probe is attached to the surface of the inclined plane.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~Support~~ The support according to claim 1, wherein the capture probe is selected from the group comprising ~~proteins, in particular antibodies, receptors~~ receptor proteins, enzymes, signaling proteins ~~or fragments thereof; peptides,~~ polysaccharides, ~~nucleic acids, in particular ssDNA, dsDNA and RNA,~~ nucleic acid analogs, in particular and PNA; ~~and small molecules.~~

9. (Currently Amended) ~~Support~~ The support according to claim 1, wherein the support further comprises reagents and/or buffers.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~Support~~ The support according to claim 1, wherein the support is an optical disc.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~Kit comprising a~~ The support according to claim 1, wherein the support comprises a portion of a kit, wherein the kit comprises at least one of ~~and reagents and/or~~ and buffers.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~Device~~ A device for the detection of optically-active substances ~~within the evanescent-field formed at the surface of a support comprising:~~

a support having opposing first and second surfaces, wherein the first surface comprises inclined surface structures that form evanescent-fields on the first surface of the support by TIR (total internal reflection) of light;

a) at least one light source emitting essentially monochromatic light of at least one wavelength, disposed on a side of the support facing the second surface, to emit the light that is directed at the inclined surface structures on the first surface through the support; and

b) at least one detector means,  
wherein the at least one light source is arranged in such that it is opposite to the surface of a support, where the detection of the optically-active substance occurs once the support is placed into the device configured to detect an optically-active substance within an evanescent-field formed by the inclined surface structures on the first surface of the support.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~Device~~ The device according to claim 12, wherein the at least one detector means is arranged on the same side of the support as the light source.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~Device~~ The device according to claim 12, wherein the at least one light source generates essentially monochromatic light.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~Device~~ The device according to claim 12, ~~comprising~~ wherein the at least one light source comprises at least two light sources generating essentially monochromatic light of at least two different wavelengths.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~Device~~ The device according to claim 12, ~~wherein further comprising a filter is arranged within the~~ a light path of the at least one light source.

17. (Currently Amended) ~~Device~~ The device according to claim 12, ~~wherein further comprising an objective lens is used~~ configured to

focus the light ~~of the~~ emitted from the at least one light source  
on the support.

18. (Currently Amended) ~~Device~~ The device according to claim 17,  
~~wherein further comprising a mask is placed in the light path~~  
between the light source and the ~~mask~~ support, which essentially  
blocks all light directed at the support with an angle  $\alpha_{NA}$  ~~smaller~~  
~~than  $\arcsin(n_{\text{medium}}/n_{\text{support}}) - \alpha_{\text{wedge}}$~~  that would not result in TIR.

19. (Currently Amended) ~~Device~~ The device according to claim 12,  
~~wherein the device further comprises a first and second opposing~~  
~~surfaces of the support comprising two~~ are essentially parallel  
~~surfaces for the detection of optically-active substances within an~~  
~~evanescent-field formed on the surface of the support, in which and~~  
~~wherein the inclined surface structures are formed in at least one~~  
~~area a plane of said surface is on the first surface, and wherein~~  
~~the inclined surface structures are inclined with respect to the a~~  
plane of the support by an angle  $\alpha_{\text{wedge}}$  ~~from~~ in a range of 10° to  
85°.

20. (Currently Amended) ~~Device~~ The device according to claim 19, wherein the support is an optical disc.

21. (Currently Amended) ~~Device~~ The device according to claim 19, wherein ~~the wavelength of the light emitted from the light source,~~  
~~the angle  $\alpha_{\text{wedge}}$  of the inclined plane(s) of the surface of the~~  
~~support  $\alpha_{\text{NA}}$  of the light directed at the disc,  $n_{\text{support}}$  and  $n_{\text{medium}}$  is~~  
~~(are) optical parameters are selected in such that the a depth d of~~  
an evanescent-field, which is formed in a medium comprising the  
optically active substance applied to the support is ~~between 10 nm~~  
~~and 1  $\mu\text{m}$ , preferably between about 20 nm and 200 nm.~~

22. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of~~ A method, comprising acts of:  
providing a support comprising two essentially parallel first  
and second surfaces for the detection of optically-active  
substances within an evanescent-field formed on the surface of the  
support, in which in wherein at least one area a plane of said  
surface is on the first surface comprises surface structures that  
form evanescent fields on the first surface of the support, wherein  
the surface structures comprise inclined surfaces that are inclined

with respect to ~~the~~ a plane of the support by an angle  $\alpha_{\text{wedge}}$  from 10° to 85°, ~~a kit according to claim 11; and~~

detecting an optically-active substance within a medium disposed adjacent the first surface of the support using evanescent-fields generated by the surface structures on the first surface of the support.

23. (Currently Amended) ~~Use~~ The method according to claim 22, wherein detecting the optically-active substance ~~is detected by~~ comprises at least one of detecting fluorescence, detecting optical scattering, and/or detecting reflectance modulation.

24. (Currently Amended) ~~Use~~ The method according to claim 22, wherein the optically-active substance comprises at least one of a ligand labeled with a fluorescence label, a scattering label, and/or a reflectance modulator.

25. (Currently Amended) ~~Use~~ The method according to claim 22, wherein the optically-active substance ~~or the ligand~~ is contained in or derived from at least one of blood, urine, sperm, vaginal



secretion, stool, sputum, tissue, single cells, lymph ~~and/or the~~  
and contents of the a gastrointestinal tract or derived thereof.

26. (Currently Amended) ~~Use~~ The method according to claim 22,  
wherein ~~the~~ detecting comprises an act of detecting binding or  
unbinding of the optically-active substance to the first surface of  
the support ~~is detected.~~